

## Feather logo to be replaced as College opts not to challenge NCAA

Amanda J. Yasenchak

Editor in Chief

President Gene Nichol has notified the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) that the College will phase out and replace its athletic logo by fall 2007. The NCAA had ruled that while the “Tribe” nickname was acceptable, the logo, which features two feathers, was “hostile” and “abusive” toward American Indians. The College’s appeal was denied, and the school can face sanctions and be prohibited from hosting postseason championships.

Nichol and the Board of Visitors, the governing body of the College, have decided not to pursue further action against the NCAA, citing three major reasons. First, William and Mary athletes might not be able to compete at the highest level. Second, Nichol said the College needs to focus its resources on students, faculty and state-of-the-art facilities. Finally, Nichol said he would not

### PLUCKED FEATHERS

continued on page two

# Secret honor



**Time honored tradition:** The College’s honor code has existed in some form for over 300 years; shrouded in secrecy, few understand the process. Reporter Nick Hoelker investigates.

## Behind the closed doors of William and Mary’s Honor Council, questions emerge on legality of proceedings

Nick Hoelker

Staff Writer

The Honor Council is one of the most esteemed and respected institutions at the College of William and Mary. Traditionally, the Honor Council has conducted most of its business in secret. However, some William and Mary students noticed a room reservation for the Honor Council meeting and approached *The Virginia Informer* asking us to investigate the meeting and examine the legality of the Council’s practices. What we turned up was evidence that the Honor Council operates in violation of the law.

According to Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Advisory Council Staff Attorney Alan Gernhardt, since the Honor Council receives public funding, it is a public body and by Virginia law and a Virginia Attorney General’s ruling the Honor Council is required to post meetings in a “prominent public location [...] at least three business days in advance of the meeting.” According to Gernhardt, meetings that discuss individual scholastic records are closed to the public and meeting times do not need to be posted. However, since the meeting in question was to discuss Honor Council business and not individual cases, the meeting should have been open to the public. The Honor Council failed to announce the meeting in a “prominent public location” since the concerned students only discovered the meeting’s location by accident.

I e-mailed Honor Council President Nora Wolf (’07) about attending the business portion of the meeting and she agreed to let me to attend.

At the business portion of the

meeting, the council discusses internal matters ranging from making rules about how frequently existing members have to attend office hours to setting attendance versus study abroad requirements for potential members. The Council also nominates and votes for a member to receive a weekly “Squishy” award given to a member who goes above and beyond the normal Honor Council call of duty.

I was asked to leave the meeting when they switched from discussing business matters to a specific case. This is legal according to Gernhardt, as individual student records are discussed. After the closed portion of meeting, the Honor Council was dismissed and all of the members left the room. However, Gernhardt said that according to Virginia law, whenever a public body comes out of closed session, all the members have to vow on their honor that what they said would be discussed in the meeting was all that was actually discussed. This is usually done by a roll call vote, a practice not employed by the Honor Council.

Wolf said that the she had contacted the school’s legal counsel about the violations and if they agree with Gernhardt, Wolf promised to fix all of the problems listed above as well as make minutes and agendas of the business meetings public.

Any student, faculty member or administrator may make an accusation against a student for violating the Honor Code. The accused student then has twenty-four hours to report to the Honor Council via e-mail, phone or stopping by their office. Wolf then

### HONOR COUNCIL

continued on page sixteen

### Contents

News	2
Features	6
Arts & Entertainment	10
Opinion	14

THE VIRGINIA  
INFORMER

## Student group assists in attempt to unionize dining services employees

Benjamin Locher

Staff Writer

Only four dining services employees met Thursday October 5 to discuss the possibility of creating a union for hourly workers at the College’s dining locations. Local union organizer Edith Heard set up two meetings on Thursday at the Williamsburg Public Library for interested employees.

“We’re trying to organize [the workers],” Heard said. “There is some interest, but there is also a lot of fear. They are afraid of losing what they have. Even though it’s not much, it’s better than nothing.”

Dining services workers are paid by Aramark, the company the College contracts with to operate the school’s food services. The Aramark employees were informed about the Thursday meetings through fliers distributed by a student organization, the Tidewater Labor Support Committee (TLSC).

TLSC first raised the issue of unionizing last year when Aramark management adjusted the schedules of Marketplace workers.

“The big issue was with management cutting hours below where [the workers]

could qualify for full-time status with benefits,” TLSC organizer Andrew Shoffner said.

While those changes have been rolled back, Shoffner said there is still a need for a union.

“There are other issues too,” he said. “One or two terminations have been perceived as unfair. I know one has been contested, and she won and was reinstated with back pay.”

Heard formed a union for Colonial Williamsburg workers decades ago and has since organized Aramark workers at other locations across the country. She said that she began looking into forming a union for the College’s Aramark employees when a few of them approached her last year.

Though the first meeting this year was

### DINING SERVICES UNION

continued on page sixteen



**Happy workers?:** The TLSC again supports unionizing dining services employees.



# Convenience fee added to online W&M Express deposits



Ilan R. Whiteside

Those convenience fees add up: Students now have to pay a \$1 fee each time they make an online deposit to W&M Express.

Chase Coleman
Staff Writer

Beginning this year, a \$1 convenience fee will be added to all W&M Express deposits made online. Director of Auxiliary Services, Charlie Maimone,

made the decision to charge a fee based on the rising costs of online transactions. In previous years, the College has covered the entire costs of all transactions; however, as online deposits have become increasingly popular, the costs involved have also increased. The

ID Office website states that “10 to 25 cents per transaction, 3% plus cost to the credit card company, secure servers and development time” add up to an average \$1.20 cost to the College per deposit. With more and more people depositing online each year, these costs will doubtlessly add up. “We’re really not interested in collecting fees we don’t have to collect,” assured Maimone, but it is now necessary to ask students to shoulder some of the escalating expenses. The alternative to charging a convenience fee would be raising the minimum deposit, which would limit the total number of transactions. Since each transaction costs a fee, limiting the number of transactions would decrease the total costs. The College has raised the minimum deposit in the past, but Maimone feels increasing the minimum again would be inconvenient for students. “The point is...to make it as convenient as possible and the next step is to place a convenience fee there to help offset some of the costs.” There are still options for those students who do not want to pay the

convenience fee. Students can make deposits for free at six different locations on campus, one of which, the ID Office in the Campus Center, accepts credit card deposits. Since the credit card company’s transaction fee is less when the card is actually present, depositing in person at the ID Office is still free to students. One more option for students wishing to avoid the convenience fee is to deposit via telephone. Unfortunately since the credit card is not present, there are greater fees for the College involved with the transaction. However, Maimone pointed out that since very few people use this method of depositing the College does not need to charge a convenience fee. In order to deposit via the phone, students should contact the ID Office. Maimone reminds students that although this is the ninth year of Express, “for the first time in its history it’s asked the students...to pay for some part, and I’m hoping that we minimize that.”

## Briefly...

- Compiled by Amanda J. Yasenchak

### Actor named to star in “John Adams” movie to be filmed in CW

Oscar nominated actor Paul Giamatti will play John Adams in the forthcoming HBO movie. Filming is expected to begin in spring 2007, with a large portion to take place in Colonial Williamsburg. The film will be based on the Pulitzer Prize winning biography, *John Adams* by David McCullough. Giamatti has recently starred in *Lady in the Water*. Giamatti was nominated for best supporting actor in the 2004 film *Sideways*.

### Alum, BOV member Plumeri to lead Homecoming Parade

Joe Plumeri (’66) will serve as Grand Marshal for the October 28 Homecoming Parade. On campus today Plumeri is best known for lending his family name to the College’s baseball field, Plumeri Park. Plumeri played both football and baseball during his time at the College. His family owns two minor-league baseball teams in his home

state of New Jersey. Plumeri currently serves on the Board of Visitors.

### Starbucks pulls application indefinitely

Starbucks has pulled its application to make exterior renovations to the College Delly property should the Delly’s owner sell to the corporation. The application was to be reviewed at the October 10 Architectural Review Board meeting for the city of Williamsburg, but it was withdrawn before the meeting. When asked why the application was withdrawn, Architectural Review Board secretary Dee Scott said, “The Starbucks representative wants to put its application on hold indefinitely because of further negotiations.”



Ilan R. Whiteside

Want a beer or a latte?: Starbucks halts plans to purchase College Delly pending further negotiations.

The Virginia Informer apologizes for the following error that appeared in our August/September 2006 Issue:

The photo on page 7 was incorrectly attributed to the Catholic Campus Ministry. The photo is of Father Sanford Key, College Chaplain of Bruton Parish Episcopal Church.

The Virginia Informer would like to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Please submit all corrections via email to [editor@vainformer.com](mailto:editor@vainformer.com)

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The Virginia Informer is an independent, non-partisan, student run publication devoted to reporting the news to the William and Mary community. We exist to provide an alternative to school sponsored news sources. We do not, and never will, receive any financial support from the College of William and Mary. We will not shy away from controversy or be afraid to challenge the norm. We strive to inform and engage our readers via responsible journalism and in-depth reporting, while fostering and giving voice to opinions that are often shut out by the campus establishment.

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# PLUCKED FEATHERS: Nichol cites limitations of teams, costs, fear of bad image as reasons to end appeals

continued from page one

want the College to become “symbol and lodestar for a prolonged struggle over Native American imagery that will likely be miscast and misunderstood to the detriment of the institution.”

Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler will chair a committee to develop a new logo by next fall. No further details have been revealed as to who else would make up this committee.

Student response to this news has been mixed. Jaime Sellers ’08), a Tribe women’s lacrosse player, says, “Despite the fact that it is extremely disappointing to hear we are giving up on the battle to save our logo, the feathers do not define what we are all about here at William and Mary.”

Johnathan Lee ’07) argued, “I think that our logo should be accepted! If Florida State can be the Seminoles and display [feathers] on their football helmets, then we should be able to [do the same].”



Lan R. Whiteide

**Fated feathers:** The College is finally giving up the fight to save the feather logo; a new logo is expected by Fall 2007.

[Athletic Director] Terry Driscoll,” Gentry stated. “What I would like to see happen is to take some real steps to redefine ourselves. We need to roll with the punches, at this point...Next is to have underclassmen step up and define ourselves as a community for our future. The call to action must come from them.”

*Thank you to Stephanie Shaffer for her assistance with this article.*

Senior Owen Gentry, who was the man inside the Colonel Ebirt mascot suit before it was eliminated by the College said, “I think that the NCAA’s ruling has some merit in it, but I think that there are some inconsistencies in it. All the achievements we have in the eyes of the NCAA are now moot over something so petty... I think this is political correctness going to an incorrect level.” Gentry would like to see an open process of finding a new logo, and eventually, a mascot. “Essentially, our mascot [Colonel Ebirt] was axed by the independent decision of

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## SDS written up for non-compliance at activities fair

Steven Nelson

Staff Writer

Students for a Democratic Society, a revived 1960s radical student group, has a large and growing presence on the William and Mary campus in spite of the notice it was given on August 29 of pending judicial action for events surrounding their recruitment at the activities fair hosted at William and Mary Hall.

The SDS display outside of William and Mary Hall made a statement and distinguished the club from the others who were all confined inside of the Hall. In accordance with it’s nonconformist reputation, SDS set up two large banners and played music near the entrance of the Hall to recruit new students.

Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Mark Constantine wrote up SDS for failure to comply. This, according to Club President Kyle Dosier ’09), is

punishable by warning.

Controversial and committed to activism, SDS is already well known on campus. Its future, however, remains uncertain, as a warning for non-compliance would set the organization on tenuous footing.

Rather than preoccupying themselves with the impending judicial action, the members of SDS have chosen to focus on their own programs. One of SDS’s major efforts has been their “Food Not Bombs” program. Food Not Bombs attempts to battle hunger in the Williamsburg area by making meals and distributing them at various locations where the destitute frequent. The program is operated and supplied entirely by the students and on their own initiative.

SDS is also taking action to improve student voting rights in Williamsburg. Drafts of a petition are being circulated and debated on by the club. The petition

tentatively states: “We, students of the College of William and Mary, request consistency from the registrar in regards to voter registration guidelines. The College is an integral part of the city of Williamsburg and its voice in the city is not being heard. Considering that students live here a majority if not the entirety of the year and contribute extensively to the economy, image and culture of the city, we, the undersigned, deserve the rights accorded to the other citizens of the town - including a voice in government.”

SDS originated on a national level in the 1960s as a radical student organization dedicated to civil rights and the anti-war movement. It grew rapidly on college campuses during the late 1960s, and was influential in the 1968 Columbia takeover and the riots at the 1968 Democratic convention. The group disintegrated in 1969, but has been revived in recent years in response to the Iraq war and other issues.

## Terri Schiavo’s brother speaks out against Persistent Vegetative State diagnosis

Amanda J. Yasenchak

Editor in Chief

On September 13, the William and Mary student group Students for Life sponsored a lecture by Bobby Schindler, the brother of Terri Schindler Schiavo. Ms. Schiavo was the center of media uproar as a woman who had been living in a compromised neurological state since 1990 and passed away in March 2005 after the court ordered her feeding tube removed.

Schindler argued that the media attention and controversy surrounding his sister’s case suggested that it was a right to life case, but in reality, it was a case for people with disabilities. “The only difference between [Terri] and us today is that she needed to be fed with a feeding tube,” Schindler said. The media had reported that Terri was in a Persistent Vegetative State (PVS), a fact

that Schindler disagrees with.

Schindler is against the diagnosis of PVS, saying that it was invented in order to legally remove food and drink from patients that could not feed themselves. Schindler says that the PVS diagnosis is completely subjective and cited data that demonstrated that PVS was misdiagnosed 50 percent of the time. In fact, in Terri’s case, many doctors believed that Terri was not in a PVS. Terri’s autopsy proved that her temporal lobes (which control emotion) had been intact.

“Why should we treat people with disabilities any differently?” Schindler asked, questioning why people in a PVS had no constitutional rights. America is heading down a “frightening path in the way we treat the disabled and elderly,” Schindler cautioned.

For more information, visit the Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation website, [www.terrisfight.org](http://www.terrisfight.org).

## Express cards anything but ‘express’ at Bookstore

Stephen Dause

Staff Writer

For many students at the start of this school year, the W&M Express debit-card system was anything *but* “express.”

Between August 29 and September 4, the William and Mary Bookstore was unable to accept any W&M Express transactions. For students who wished to use Express to buy their textbooks at the beginning of the semester, this presented a problem, as they could neither buy nor return any books without another method of payment on hand.

This combined with the long lines created because the bookstore staff had to transcribe both Student ID numbers and textbook barcodes, was the cause of much frustration for William and Mary students.

“[Express] didn’t work the first five times I went over there, like, the first couple weeks,” complained Crystal Nuokorie, a freshman at the College. “The lines took forever!”

When asked whether she thought the bookstore should have been better-prepared at this time of the year, Nuokorie responded, “Definitely.”

“The textbooks are down in the basement, so I went down there, got my books, went to the register, and I heard from this girl that they weren’t taking Express, so I went back down and gave them back,” said Aaron Gregory, a freshman.

When he returned a couple of days later, Gregory found that students could use Express, so long as they were willing to wait in line to get a handwritten receipt and an explanation that their Express account would be charged as soon as the bookstore got back online.

Apologizing to students for the inconvenience, manager Steve Babbitt said, “We know that it’s the busiest time of the year, and we were just as upset as everyone else was. It caused us a lot of extra work and problems that we are still working on. . . . It was a computer problem that had to be fixed by Barnes & Noble.”



# SA Senate defeats constitutional convention, as some urge to look beyond internal affairs

## Gender blind housing bill attracts student, media attention

Stephen Dause  
& Roy Mor

Staff Writers

The Student Assembly Senate closed a busy first few weeks of the semester by debating and ultimately failing a constitutional amendment. Many of the bills proposed and passed were internal in nature, dealing with the organization and procedures of the SA rather than bills that affect most students. Some bills were controversial in nature, others sought to realize long unattainable goals, such as extending Health Center hours. The Senate has been operating at full capacity after the September 28 election brought in four freshman senators, Andrew Blasi, Scott Morris, Sarah Rojas and Orlando Watson.

In order to give the Senate a more accurate and direct response of students' attitude toward Senate, Senator Zach Pilchen ('09) introduced and the Senate passed TAO (Together As One) Act, "which sought to establish monthly referenda for students on their satisfaction with the Student Assembly" through SIN.

Preparing for 9/11 Memorial Events, Senator Matthew Skibiak ('08) introduced the 9/11 Memorial Co-Sponsor Act, a bill that asked the SA for support for the planned campus memorial service along with \$900 to pay for commemorative t-shirts, which was passed 15-0-0.

The Defense of Nightlife Act, sponsored by Pilchen, was designed to oppose any takeover of the College Dely by organizing a student petition. The bill was vetoed by SA President Ryan Scofield ('07) after its unanimous passage in the Senate.

Pilchen also sponsored the bill that received the most student and local media attention this year, the Freedom of Choice Act. This bill sought to allow gender-blind housing, in which members of opposite sex would not only share hall bathrooms, but might also share dorm rooms. The meeting where the Senate voted on the bill was well-attended; the public audience was vocally in favor of the bill. The act was passed unanimously, 15-0-1, with only Senator Shariff Tanious ('08) abstaining.

Senate Chairman Scott Fitzgerald ('07) sponsored

the SA Budget Process Reform Act III, a bill that would add two senators to the committee that writes the SA budget. These two senators on the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC) would only be allowed to ask questions but not allowed to engage in debate in EAC deliberations. The Act passed on a vote of 13-0-1. Senator Isaac Rosenberg from the Law School was the only abstention.

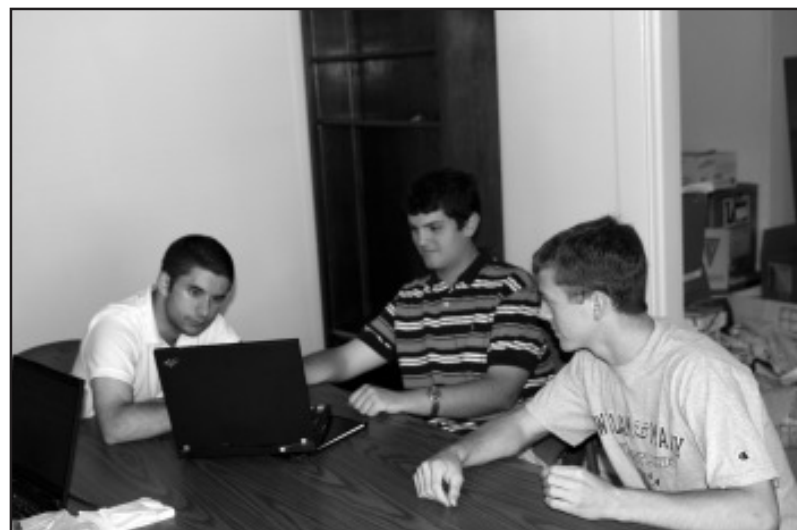
Another debated bill was the Senate Reform Act, which would change the Student Assembly Code to give Senate committees more responsibility in carrying out the acts they pass.

Senate Co-Chairman Joe Luppino-Esposito ('08) introduced three bills to the Senate, the most important of which was the Student Assembly Budget Committee Act, which would give the Senate a role in the forming of the SA budget. This, said Luppino-Esposito, would alleviate problems experienced in the past, where the Senate was not willing to pass the budget and the executive argued that nothing more could be done.

Senators Matt Beato ('09) and Walter McClean ('09) introduced their Student Organizational Funding Act, which would clarify many funding procedures for the SA that are ambiguous or self-contradictory as written. Beato also introduced his Code Restructuring Act of 2006, which would reorganize the Student Assembly Code to make it clear what body followed what part of code.

At last week's Senate meeting, the Constitutional Convention Amendment failed 14-4-1, would have established a convention to design an entirely new SA Constitution. It received lengthy debate on the floor. Ultimately, Senators McClean, Pilchen, Watson and Sean Sheppard ('09), voted against it, and Skibiak abstained. The amendment required 17 votes to be adopted.

McClean and Pilchen were the most vocal



**Not just Tuesday night senators:** Part of senators' responsibilities include serving on committees according to their interests.

Ian R. Whiteside

denouncers of the bill. McClean accused its supporters of engaging in "lazy thinking" in assuming that the bill would lessen the number of weekly Internal Affairs bills, that a committee of 11 SA members would be democratic, and that the power of the Senate (or the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils) to veto the final constitution would be enough to ensure proper hearing of the bill.

"We need a system where conflict is not an inherent part of the system," said Fitzgerald. Senator Victor Sulkowski ('07) noted that the current constitution was set up based on the US federal government, but argued that "that doesn't work in a student assembly," and thus a new constitution is needed.

Luppino-Esposito was disappointed with the vote's results but was unwilling to give up. In a short interview afterwards, he indicated that alternative ways of adopting a new constitution would be utilized in the near future.

Another bill that sparked lengthy discussion was the Refuge for Internally Displaced Students Act (RIDS), sponsored by Pilchen. The bill would seek to turn the SA house on 404 Jamestown Road into a refugee camp for students evicted by the City of Williamsburg under the three-person-to-a-house injunction. It was going to be heard tonight, but was amended to remove a clause asking City Council "respectfully" for advice on converting the house, whose maturity was questioned by some senators. Senators, then recognizing that the omission significantly changed the bill, voted to send it back to committee.

The Student Parking Rights Act, sponsored by McCarthy, was one of two non-internal affairs acts last night, and it passed unanimously. It urged the Parking Advisory Board and Vice President of Administration to "reallocate approximately 50 faculty spaces in the Parking Garage to day and resident parkers" and "utilize the Plant parking lot for visitors during football games" as opposed to the William & Mary Hall parking lot. The "Plant" parking lot is behind the Campus Center, adjacent to the old Campus Police office.

The final bill voted on last night was the Voting Rights Act, whose main purpose was to ratify the Student Decree, a statement written by Senator Brett Phillips ('08) to share with the student governments of many colleges and universities in Virginia. The Decree explains to the Virginia General Assembly, in formal and succinct language, why the ability for college and university students to vote in the city or county in which they reside during the school year should be a right.

Finally, Rojas and McClean announced their investigation of the hours of the Student Health Center and meeting with SHC officials. Their proposal is to expand the weekend hours of the Center, allowing for non-emergency visits on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as well as a similar four-hour period on Sunday. The cost of this, they said, could be covered by either increased health fees, increased weekend co-pay fees, or other options. They also mentioned investigating a possible student referendum on the issue.

*Editor's Note: Joe Luppino-Esposito is the Assistant Editor in Chief and Andrew Blasi is a staff writer for The Virginia Informer.*

## SA exec department in controversy over campaign against marriage amendment

Matthew Sutton

Assistant News Editor

The Student Assembly (SA) executive finished another busy month that included controversy over alleged SA involvement in the campaign against the marriage amendment referendum in the upcoming November election. The bluebook initiative that President Ryan Scofield ('07) and Vice President Amanda Norris ('07) had championed also saw its first logistical problem.

During a senate meeting on September 20, Norris announced that the Department of Diversity Initiatives (DI), a department within the executive branch headed by Lydia Bailey ('07), would campaign students to vote no on an amendment to the Virginia state constitution that would bar same-sex marriage.

In an interview with *The Virginia Informer*, Bailey implicitly contradicted Norris' earlier statement and said that DI was only working together with the Commonwealth Coalition to educate students about the amendment and denied that DI was advocating students to vote a particular way. "We are still educating SA and the rest of the campus body about this issue that does concern many students (particularly those that live in Virginia) and of which many of our fellow classmates are fighting for." She did, however, acknowledge that a petition against the amendment was offered to students.

According to the Commonwealth Coalition's

website, this umbrella group, "is a diverse group of individuals, businesses, and civic, community and religious organizations who have joined together to oppose the proposed amendment to the Virginia bill of rights that will be on the ballot this fall."

Scofield and Norris told *The Virginia Informer* that members of DI, but not the whole department, worked at tables inside the UC and outside of the Caf and that they did advocate a no vote on the state amendment but they were doing so purely in a private capacity and represented neither DI or the SA, merely their own personal opinions. Furthermore they did not represent themselves to students as speaking for the student government or any body/agency/group within the student government. According to Scofield, the SA cannot and is not taking a partisan position on this issue.

Among the popular accomplishments of the Scofield administration was the introduction of free bluebooks for exams paid for by the SA. Norris was recently contacted by a student whose philosophy professor made the entire class purchase bluebooks for their exam at the campus bookstore even though every department on campus has been supplied with bluebooks that they are supposed to provide free of charge to students. According to Scofield, this has been the only problem encountered so far in the bluebook initiative. Both of them want to remind students that bluebooks are now provided by the each academic department and students should remind their professors of this fact.



# Student Assembly welcomes freshmen officers

The Virginia Informer sits down with newly elected officers to discuss their plans for the year

-Compiled by Jon San

## President Ali Snell

**Virginia Informer:** As president, what are your goals for the year?

**Ali Snell:** I really want to have a variety of socials to bring our class together.



Events like movie nights, BBQs, date nights, dance parties and others would really promote unity. I've also been approached by several philanthropy groups that are interested in working with us to raise money for their causes.

**VI:** How do you plan on staying in contact with your class?

**AS:** I plan on sending out emails every other week. I think it is really effective for the people that are interested in the activities and if you are not, then you can just delete it.

**VI:** What do your duties include?

**AS:** I run the meetings, and basically team up with other members of the Undergraduate Council based on the issue and event. I also hope to work with the Senate and prevent any division from occurring.

**VI:** Any fun facts to tell?

**AS:** I'm from California, I have two fake teeth and am on the women's rugby team here at the College

## Vice President for Advocacy Roxanne Lepore

**Virginia Informer:** What are your goals for the upcoming school year?

**Roxanne Lepore:** I not only want to be an advocate to the administration, but I also would like to

go to Senate meetings and conduct polls to determine students' opinions on a variety of topics ranging from if flex points could be viably implemented at Wawa to more general ideas. I also would like to create a more efficient communication system between what students desire and what the administration would allow. Myself and other VP's for Advocacy are looking to form a VPA caucus which would allow us to meet and talk about cross-class events.



**VI:** Do you have a background in advocacy type positions?

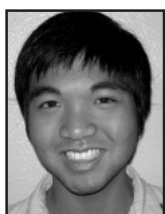
**RL:** I've been involved in advocacy for a while. I'm still a part of Amnesty International and I actually am the Student Area Coordinator for this region which basically means that I am the liaison between the Amnesty Executive Board and the various student groups. Currently, I am facilitating a workshop for the Mid-Atlantic region.

## Vice President for Social Affairs Kristian Obceman

**Virginia Informer:**

How do you plan on promoting attendance at social events?

**Kristian Obceman:** That's a tough question because I know some people hate "school sponsored" functions but lots of those functions are actually a good time if they would give it a chance. So I guess it's necessary to break down the inherent aversion to those functions.



**VI:** Do you have any other goals for the year?

**KO:** Unity among our class. Lots of dorms and even floors rarely interact so I hope that we can develop a stronger sense of community. I hope to get in touch with the residency complexes so that we can coordinate events together.

**VI:** Any fears that you wouldn't want your opponents knowing?

**KO:** I'm intimidated by the waffle makers at the Caf because the first time I used one, the Caf lady had to help me out.

## Secretary Laura Nelson

**Virginia Informer:** What are your duties as secretary?

**Laura Nelson:** Obviously taking notes during meetings, lots of PR work, sending out class emails, taking pictures during the social events and helping out with whatever needs to be done.



**VI:** How do you expect to advertise social events?

**LN:** In addition to posters, flyers, and emails, I think word-of-mouth is always the best way to get students involved.

**VI:** Any secrets you've been dying to share?

**LN:** I make a really awesome blueberry pie. It's a secret family recipe.

## Treasurer Sonam Shah

**Virginia Informer:** What are your goals for this year?

**Sonam Shah:** Usually students don't know where all the money goes so correcting that problem is important to me. But I would also like to increase the number of fundraisers we have and save our money so that we can have a really incredible senior year.



**VI:** What issues did you campaign on?

**SS:** I promised to make sure that the budget does not go out of control and also estimate how much and to where our funding will be directed.

**VI:** Do you have any specific fundraising ideas?

**SS:** I know that car washes always bring in a lot of money. And around holidays we could easily sell candy or raffle off gifts to raise funds.

**VI:** Have you lived in Virginia all your life?

**SS:** No. Actually, I was born in India and lived in Uganda for nine years before moving here after 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Senator Andrew Blasi

**Virginia Informer:** How do you feel about your fellow senators?

**Andrew Blasi:** They all seem very dedicated and ambitious to make changes that they see as important to their platform and constituents.



**VI:** Do you know of any current Senate bills that you would support or are against?

**AB:** I do support many of the bills that are being proposed that would act to strengthen the powers of the Senate. Additionally, bills geared towards saving students' money, the platform on which I ran, also have my attention.

**VI:** What is your most important goal for the coming year?

**AB:** I really would like to strengthen the importance of the Senate in the Student Assembly. Right now, the current SA is planned out like the federal government which is silly considering our college environment. There really is too much bureaucracy that I would like to see eliminated.

*Editor's Note: Andrew Blasi is a staff writer for The Virginia Informer.*

## Senator Scott Morris

**Virginia Informer:** What platform did you run on?

**Scott Morris:** Judicial reform was the focus of my campaign. This includes expanding rights to students to hopefully have either student attorneys or paid attorneys. Currently, I believe, you can have an attorney present but he or she cannot speak for you.



**VI:** Are there any other issues you hope to accomplish?

**SM:** I hope to change the Intramural Ultimate Frisbee program from being held on just one day to having an actual season like other IM sports. I also would like to open up and renovate dorm attics to provide students with more activity

space, following in the example of Monroe Hall.

**VI:** Are there any bills you currently support or are against?

**SM:** There is a bill that deals with judicial reform that I am very interested in. Also, I hope to make it easier to set the budget for the upcoming year.

## Senator Sarah Rojas

**Virginia Informer:** What is your primary goal for the year?

**Sarah Rojas:** I want to make sure that the Student Assembly hears what the freshman class has to say. I don't want us to be billed as a quiet class from the beginning.



**VI:** Over the past couple years the Senate seems to have divided into political factions. What do you think of this and do you see yourself taking a side?

**SR:** I hope that we can just look at what's best for the College and the students and not let our political differences or backgrounds interfere with our job. It's important to remember that we're representing everybody, not just our own voices.

**VI:** Are there any current bills that you support or are against?

**SR:** I support the bill about improving the Health Center as well as the bill that is aimed at expanding the flex point system. I also want to look into the Gender Blind Housing bill which I feel that all senators should be familiar with.

## Senator Orlando Watson

**Virginia Informer:** What are your goals for this school year?

**Orlando Watson:** I want to help current senators change the direction this school has been going. They seem to be cracking down on students a lot and I hope to implement policies that would give students the freedom they deserve as responsible adults.



**VI:** The SAE Alumni house was denied permission to house more than three unrelated individuals. What is your opinion on the issue?

**OW:** Personally, and this may sound kind of abstract, it reminds me of during the Revolutionary War when three or more black people were not allowed to congregate because it would be deemed an 'illegal party.' I find it to be a stone-age type of law and hope the Senate will be able to change it.

**VI:** Anything we should know about you?

**OW:** I don't know how to swim so don't tell my enemies.



FEATURES

‘If you leave everything alone, you’ll be fine.’  
The College’s quiet tradition of tunneling

R.C. Rasmus  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

William and Mary students take pride in their traditions. The Triathlon, the lore surrounding the Crim Dell, the Yule Log ceremony - all of these are time-honored parts of the William and Mary experience. However, there are several traditions at the College that are kept much quieter. One of these is an old and peculiar practice called “tunneling.” Never heard of it? Don’t feel left out. Tunneling is a practice shrouded in discreet silence.

So what is tunneling? It involves descending into the 3,000 feet of tunnels that run beneath William and Mary’s Old Campus and having a look around. The metal pipes that run through the tunnels were built in the 1850’s and are still used to deliver heat, in the form of 375° F steam, to the academic buildings around the Sunken Gardens. The tunnels also run under several dormitories close to Old Campus, including Barrett Hall, Old Dominion and Taliaferro.

As you might imagine, tunneling is no pleasure cruise. As the 1970s *Flat Hat* ghost writer Ed Poe put it, the tunnels are “very hot and dirty, dark and noisy...and the temperature is intense.” In fact, the average temperature underground is about 120° F, according to one contemporary tunneler. When the tunnels aren’t blazing hot, they’re soaking wet, sometimes filled knee-deep with water in the springtime. In many places passages are only 4 feet high, making it necessary to crawl on your hands and knees through layers of dust and dirt. On top of all this, there are no lights, and it’s essential to wear a mask, long pants and sleeves to protect yourself from the airborne grit, rats and giant-sized cockroaches. Why would anyone in their right mind want to go tramping through hellholes like these? One seasoned explorer provides a very simple answer: “It’s fun,” says John Doe Tunneler\*, “It’s like jumping the wall in CW; it’s exciting!”

There are a lot of ways to get into the steam tunnels. One website lists more than a dozen, along with several points of interest. These include the sealed-off door to the Wren Crypt, the “Ballroom,” a wide-open space with lots of interesting graffiti, and “the Lorelei,” a hot, cramped space that echoes with the screams of escaping steam. While a 1970s era tunneler identified in the *Flat Hat* as the “Subterranean Snake” told reporters that writing graffiti and arrows with

When the tunnels aren’t blazing hot, they’re soaking wet, sometimes filled knee-deep with water in the spring time. In many places passages are only four feet high, making it necessary to crawl on your hands and knees through layers of dust and dirt.

directions on the tunnel walls ruins the mystique, many of the locations on the web’s must-see list are interesting bits of wall-writing, some of which date back half a century.

John Doe Tunneler came across the quiet tradition by chance, when he and his friend stumbled onto one of the several entrances to the underground network his freshman year. Curious, John and his friend did some poking around and came across maps of the tunnels posted online. “It seemed pretty interesting and fun to do. We knew it was against the rules, but whatever.” John’s first accidental brush with tunneling has led to a streamlined routine that the he has gone through several times. “We go down a couple times a year in late August and in fall, just me and a few friends. Usually we go down in groups of 3 or 4, so it’s not so conspicuous.”

William and Mary administrators have long been opposed to the practice of tunneling. In the past, they have warned that tunneling students might receive burns from escaping steam. John Doe Tunneler doesn’t buy the administration’s warning: “The administration has a tendency to overblow things about safety. They sort of try to scare people with things that have a really low probability of happening. I know that Facilities Management still goes down there, so by the school’s own logic, if there were really a risk of steam blasts, then they wouldn’t send their own people down there.”

However, John is quick to say that tunnelers should take precautions and be smart. “You never go down alone. If you go down by yourself, you’re asking for trouble. If you go around kicking the pipes, you know, you’re stupid. But if you leave the environment alone, just walk around and look at what’s down there, then no, it’s not that dangerous. If you leave everything alone, you’ll be fine. You should take down a flashlight, a mask and a bottle of water,” he says, “If you can’t take heat very well, or you drank a lot the night before and you’re dehydrated, then you could pass out down there. If you feel faint, you should just get your a\*\* out. You can’t call for help down there, since cell phones don’t work in the tunnels.”

The question of repercussions for tunneling is one that has now entered the realm of campus legend. The student handbook has only this to say: “For reasons of safety and security, [the] steam tunnels of College buildings are closed to all but authorized employees.” However, some students have reported very serious consequences for getting caught in the underground: “I’ve heard that being down in the tunnels is the only offence that the College can expel you for with no questions asked,” said one 2006 alumnus. This, however, seems not to be the case. There is only one documented instance of a student being reprimanded for tunneling, and the student received nothing more than an oral reprimand from the Assistant Dean of Students.

Former Head of Campus Security, Harvey Gunson, told *Flat Hat* reporters in 1979 that he did not “view tunneling” as “trespassing in the legal sense” because there are no signs posted warning students not to enter the underground. John Doe Tunneler confirms that this is still the case today. However, Chief Don Challis, Head of Campus Police, stated that anyone caught tunneling would be charged with criminal trespass and that the



Proceed with caution: Tunneling has been a tradition at the College for decades, but those who participate tend to keep quiet about their adventures to avoid punishment from the school administration.

fact that the tunnels aren’t marked is irrelevant. “It’s like someone’s house. You don’t just open the door and go in because there’s no warning sign posted. There’s no reason for people to be down [in the tunnels]. They know what they’re doing when they go down there,” the chief said. “If it were an open area like a park or a big building and someone went in, you could understand it, but this is different. Of course, it would be up to the judge to determine whether [tunneling constitutes] trespassing or not.” Mr. Dave Shepherd, Head of Maintenance at the College, was unavailable for comment about his views on contemporary tunneling.

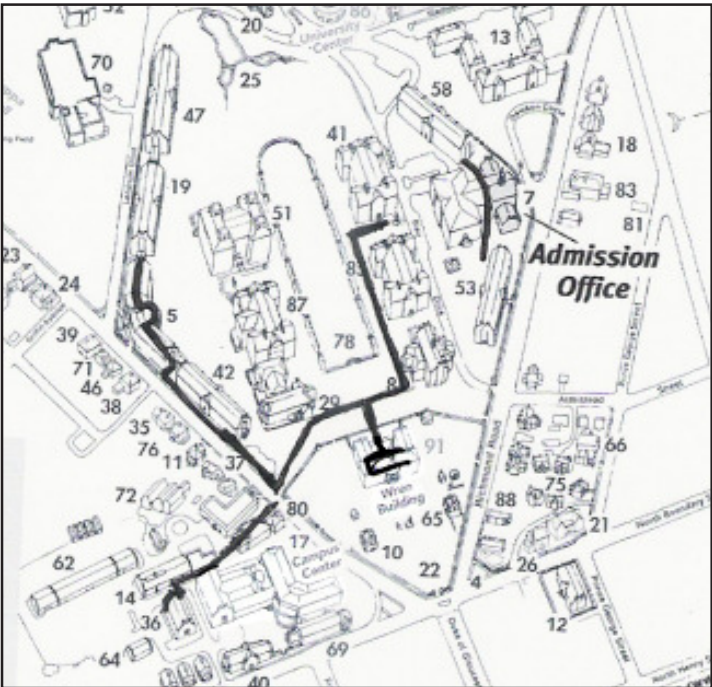
Isn’t John Doe worried about getting caught in the underground by Facilities Management, Maintenance or Campus Police? “Yeah, I worry about it, I mean, I’d like to get my degree, but it’s the kind of thing where the reprimand I’d get would probably not be too harsh. You’d probably get put on probation. If you messed with the pipes or the cables, you’d probably get thrown out, but if you’re just hanging around down there, they probably wouldn’t do too much.” How has John Doe kept from getting caught all these years? “Just don’t be stupid,” he says. “Don’t go down in big groups, don’t let anyone see you and don’t talk about it too much.”

So why doesn’t facilities management just seal off every entrance to the tunnels? Why don’t they stop the quiet tradition of tunneling dead in its tracks? “There are too many entrances,” says John Doe Tunneler. “There are so many sets of stairs and manhole covers you can use. They could make it more difficult to get in, I guess, but they couldn’t stop it.”

The veteran Subterranean Snake echoed John Doe’s assertion two decades earlier: “Are you ever worried that you won’t be able to get in?” he was asked. “There are always ways to get in if you’re dedicated,” the Snake replied.

\*Names have been changed to protect identities.

Editor’s Note: Entering the College’s steam tunnels is prohibited in the Student Handbook. Neither The Virginia Informer nor this reporter condones the practice of tunneling.



Treasure map: This map is an artist’s rendering of the vague locations of the tunnels, not an actual map.



# Dollars & Sense for students

## Dropping gas prices give clues on where to invest

Andrew B. Blasi Jr.

Staff Writer

Perhaps the most significant event in the business world over this past year has been the massive drop in gasoline prices that we as consumers are paying at the pump. According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), in the state of Virginia the price of a regular gallon of self-service gasoline has fallen 27% over the past year, from an average of \$2.94 in October 2005 to an average of \$2.14 as of October 1. In addition, according to AAA, prices have fallen nearly 29% in the Newport News-Norfolk-Virginia Beach region over this same time period to an average of \$2.08.

It is easy for us as individuals here at the College to understand the benefits of these lower gas prices, but when we look at how these lower prices are changing nationally we may consider the possibility of new and dead investment opportunities. According to AAA, the national price average for a gallon of gasoline has fallen nearly \$0.57 over the past year. When we consider the total number of gallons consumed in the United States each year (150-160 billion gallons, according to the US Department of Energy), this drop in price has resulted in the savings of tens of billions of dollars, both for consumers and businesses. Although the stock market has already adjusted for these fuel savings, if the slide in gasoline price continues, there are many companies that may be worth taking a look at as possible investments.

Some of these include retail and consumer manufacturing companies that will see an expansion of sales as a result of greater consumer spending money. Perhaps the greatest of these include Wal-Mart (NYSE: WMT) and Procter & Gamble (NYSE: PG). Wal-

Mart is America's, and the world's, largest retailer that primarily serves the middle and lower classes. These two economic groups are most affected by the volatility in gas prices, and as gas prices fall, these groups have more money to spend at such places as Wal-Mart. Procter & Gamble is the world's largest consumer goods company, manufacturing hundreds of famous brands—including Crest, Folgers, Duracell, Gillette, and Pampers—22 of which have sales over a billion dollars per year. Both of these companies have been hindered as a result of the 2005 spike in gas prices, and very well may benefit from increased spending power on the part of consumers.

In addition to companies benefiting from consumer savings, it may also be worthy to look for investment opportunities with firms that are saving a great deal of money as a result of this drop in gasoline prices. Some of these firms include the shipping stocks of Fedex (NYSE: FDX) and United Parcel Service (NYSE: UPS), airline stocks such as American (NYSE: AMR), Southwest (NYSE: LUV), and US Airways (NYSE: LCC) all of which can continue to charge relatively the same for their services while having to spend less on fuel. (This logic is not to be applied with the railroad and transport services companies, however, as they have been able to defer the higher cost of fuel of the past few years through an increase in customer surcharges.)

It is also important to note how these changes in the price of gasoline are affecting the energy industry as well, because they are not all negative. When we talk of a massive drop in gasoline prices, it is clear that those companies involved in the direct sale of energy to consumers and firms may face difficulties, such as ExxonMobil (NYSE: XOM) and ChevronTexaco (NYSE: CVX). Many energy related companies

### Virginia unleaded average

	Regular	Mid	Premium	Diesel
<b>Current</b>				
<b>Avg.</b>	\$2.14	\$2.25	\$2.33	\$2.58
<b>Yesterday</b>				
<b>Avg.</b>	\$2.15	\$2.26	\$2.34	\$2.58
<b>Month Ago</b>				
<b>Avg.</b>	\$2.66	\$2.79	\$2.90	\$2.91
<b>Year Ago</b>				
<b>Avg.</b>	\$2.94	\$3.08	\$3.20	\$2.96

### Highest recorded price:

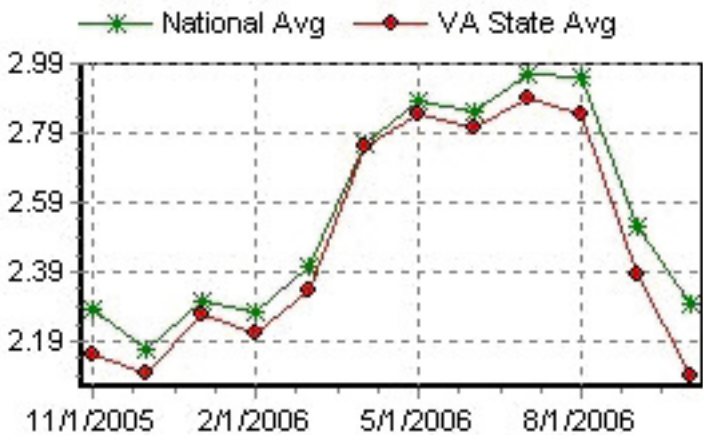
<b>Regular Unl.</b>	\$3.14	9/5/2005
<b>DSL.</b>	\$3.21	10/7/2005

that have had their stock price hindered as a result of the fall in gasoline prices may be exceptional buying opportunities if their primary focus is oil exploration and extraction rather than the sale of gasoline itself. This is because even though the demand for gasoline has fallen in the short-term, over the long run, the world's demand for gas is expected to soar (especially in China, India and other emerging economies). Two companies that fall into this category are Schlumberger (NYSE: SLB) and Baker Hughes (NYSE: BHI), both of

which are addressing the world's increasing demand for energy through their unique services.

*The information contained in the article is for informational purposes only and neither The Virginia Informer nor the author of this article provide certified financial advice. The investments mentioned involve risk and uncertainty and they are not guaranteed by any enterprise. Any equity investment has the potential to lose value.*

### 12 month average for regular unleaded



## Return of the “Serial Stenciler?”

In January 2006, *The Virginia Informer*, was the first publication to print the story of the “Serial Stenciler,” who was vandalizing campus with spray paint designs. Some of the images included the vulgar “Wilma and Mary” as well as a picture of President George W. Bush with the caption, “MURDERER.” In the past week, it appears as though the “Serial Stenciler” has returned, or has at least inspired a copycat.

The images pictured here include a stick figure smoking and skipping class, as seen on the King Student Health Center (top) along with an ominous eye of Vice President of Student Affairs as captured on this electrical box behind Washington Hall (bottom). The “DON’T GO TO CLASS” images have been eliminated on all painted surfaces, but the Sadler eye images have gone up more recently.



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# Do you want mango, grape or sweet n

## Blue Caterpillar hookah bar provides new, under-21 student

Nick Fitzgerald

Features Editor

The Blue Caterpillar hookah bar is a recent addition to student-focused Williamsburg nightlife. Run out of the College Delly on Wednesday nights between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m., the Blue Caterpillar offers the 18 to 21 crowd—which encompasses a vast majority of William and Mary students—an alternative, legal social outlet.

The hookah bar is run by three William and Mary students, Gregory Cooper ('08), Patrick Perlmutter ('08) and Victor Sulkowski ('07).

Cooper and Sulkowski explained that they wanted to offer William and Mary students who were not 21 years old an opportunity to enjoy themselves in Williamsburg. Last spring, they, along with Perlmutter and the Phi Tau fraternity, wanted to demonstrate to the College administration that there was a real student interest in having a hookah bar on campus, and that it could be successful.

"Phi Tau purchased supplies and equipment for a hookah night," Sulkowski said, "and all the proceeds went to charity. We generated several hundred dollars." Despite the success of the Phi Tau hookah night, the administration still did not allow space on campus for a weekly event of this type. "We thought we had a viable business model," said Sulkowski, "but we needed the space. So we thought to ourselves, what's a close space near campus?"

And that is when the College Delly was approached about allowing a once-a-week, student-run hookah night on its property. Cooper, Perlmutter and Sulkowski have purchased the hookahs



The blue caterpillar was a character from *Alice in Wonderland*: The new hookah bar at the College Delly provides an alternative nightlife scene for students under and over 21 alike.

and continue to purchase the shisha themselves, out-of-pocket. Darlene Gilland, the College Delly's manager, was very enthusiastic about the idea, according to Cooper and Sulkowski. She agreed to let the Blue Caterpillar be run out of the Delly's adjacent patio on Wednesday nights. "Essentially, the Delly allows us to operate for free. For them, it's a draw in. People come in the door, they see what's going on, we suggest that they get food, etc."

The Blue Caterpillar, whose name refers to *Alice in Wonderland* where a blue caterpillar smokes a hookah, has now had

several increasingly successful nights since the start of the fall semester and is continuing to grow. "Business has been steadily expanding, so much so we might actually see a profit! It's a constant process of reinvestment, and we're getting to the point where we can reinvest and expand and purchase better equipment and improve our presentation."

There is a Facebook group entitled "Blue Caterpillar @ College Delly," which contains information regarding hookah sizes and number of desired hoses (with corresponding prices), as well as a bevy of different available flavors.

A new addition to the Blue Caterpillar's service side is what is called the "Text Ahead" feature, explained on Facebook. One needs only to text his arrival time, name, hookah size, hose number, and flavor to a certain phone number, and he will receive a response with the wait time for the hookah, in minutes.

Sulkowski also commented on the recent debacle concerning the rumor the Delly was going to be replaced by Starbucks, a story which *The Flat Hat* printed incorrectly. "Two days after our first night, the Starbucks thing broke. [When I heard the rumor], my first reaction was just very surprised, because I had heard none of it from Darlene, and because we were 'business partners' I wasn't sure what to think. She said that the Delly wasn't sold, but, yes, that they were

under a lot of pressure to improve their business model."

Sulkowski's tenure in the Student Assembly has given him more refined information about the campus's feeling toward Williamsburg nightlife in general, and the Delly in particular. "There's a huge amount of student support to keeping the idea of the Delly, but not necessarily the College Delly in particular, and that's a combination of a lot of things. Partly, it's the administration's stance towards alcohol, partly the city council, and partly because the Delly needs to improve. Last Wednesday was one of the Delly's most

## Whatd'ya Know?

### Did Gene Nichol really play football in college?

It's a statement often quoted but rarely elaborated upon that President Nichol played varsity football while attending Oklahoma State University as an undergraduate. This fact was especially touted last year, when the new president had to be introduced by a lengthy



Ryan Lintelman  
Columnist

list of accomplishments at every school function, pep rally or bake sale. It seems as though the college administration felt compelled at each event to explain why they had selected such an intimidating giant to lead the second oldest liberal arts college in the nation.

With the more recent solidification of his image as an intelligent, yet cuddly, teddy bear, it has become less apparent that Nichol's size and powerful gait would make him an excellent college football player. It was on a

football scholarship, however, that the future William and Mary president first attended college at the University of Florida. Nichol's impressive high school career netted him a quarterback position on the varsity squad, but his "slow, lumbering, drop back" style of play didn't mesh with the Gators' offensive playbook, according to Nichol.

After transferring to Oklahoma State, a school closer to his home state of Texas, Nichol saw more play time as the second-string quarterback. "I would typically play if we got behind and we were trying to throw the ball," he said, "but I was nothing to write home about." After having three knee surgeries, and faced with the prospect of a metal replacement if he injured his leg again, Nichol dropped out of the football team to pursue his degree in philosophy and, eventually, law.

Although he says that he didn't amount to much in football, President Nichol did say he thinks that these experiences taught him the courage and ability to think quickly, and helped him succeed in law school and later life.

*Whatd'ya Know - an irreverent Q & A column. No question is too broad, no quandary too trivial, and no subject too taboo for the enlightened community of William and Mary to answer. Send your questions - from the meaning of life to the meaning of the Sunken Gardens - to whatdyaknow@vainformer.com.*

## O'Connor William and



Taking advantage of Chancellor Sandra Day O'Connor's session in the atrium of the U.C. on October 8. O'Connor's own difficulty in breaking into law as a female, achieve anything they want in any field they want and about her career, her views on the Constitution, and

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# melon?

## nightlife

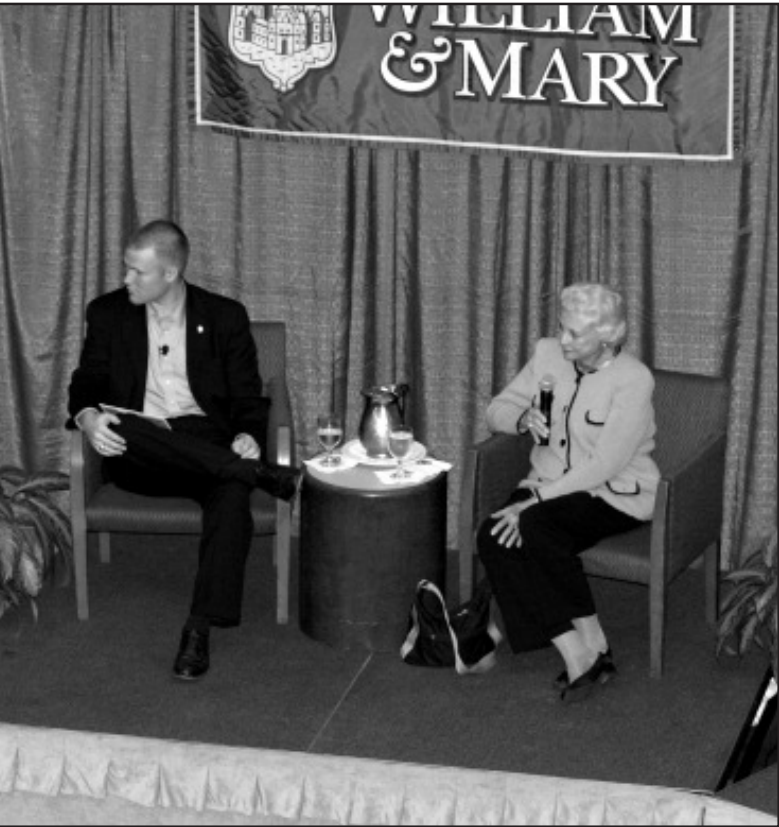
successful night's they've had in a while—because of the Blue Caterpillar.”

Cooper continued, explaining that “the Delly has never done anything like this before, they didn’t know how to take advantage of it. Now, they’ve posted menu changes—\$1 pizza slices, for example—and offer different types of non-alcoholic drinks. They’re looking to expand and we’re trying to get them to understand by targeting not only the 21-plus market. They can try to reinvent themselves, but right now they need the inspiration, and they need to know about what students want. One of the most impressive things about the Delly is that they are really, honestly committed to students...and a Starbucks doesn’t seem, to me, to be an optimal use of limited space. The Blue Caterpillar is not necessarily what the Delly is going to become, but it is definitely one way to expand their success.”

“It’s great,” Sulkowski said. “Managers of Paul’s [Delly] and the Green Leafe come over and are amazed at the amount of people who are at the Delly on Wednesday night. The Leafe has mug night, Paul’s has Corona night, and now the Delly has hookah night.”

When asked what would happen to the Blue Caterpillar if the Delly eventually does get sold out to another business, Sulkowski said that “the Blue Caterpillar will stay no matter [what happens to the Delly.] The further we go the more possibilities we have. The Delly has been extremely supportive and we love it, but we won’t let it be the end of our operation. It’s totally student driven, we really have to thank the students for their support. We don’t like to think of it as a ‘business’—it’s an atmosphere. I’m surprised by the gratitude of students and we really have to thank you.”

## gets an idea of what Mary students look like



Connor's visit to campus, the Student Assembly sponsored a Question and Answer session. Connor offered advice to students about college and careers. When asked about her experience at Stanford with the late Chief Justice Rehnquist, she was happy that women have more opportunities today: "Women today can do anything and that's been fabulous. And that's happened in my lifetime." O'Connor spoke about her experience at Stanford with the late Chief Justice Rehnquist.

## Legal Fun Under 21

**The Blue Caterpillar operates out of the College Delly between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. on Wednesdays.**

**Check out the Facebook group “Blue Caterpillar @ College Delly” for more information.**

## Swemming off the deep end: Thank God for public record



**Nick Fitzgerald & Matthew Sutton**  
Columnists

Thanks to people like Congressman Mark Foley, we all know how important it is to make sure some of our more sensitive electronic correspondence is kept out of the public eye. Fortunately for us at *The Virginia Informer*, all e-mails written on a .edu domain are available to anyone as a matter of public record! Below is a shockingly bizarre set of e-mails sent between two students here at the College, reproduced in part. Some of the names have been changed to protect the identity of those involved, while some, clearly, have not.

*Dearest Regis,*

*According to my Facebook Mini-Feed, I couldn't help by notice you declined my group invite to the Anti-Muppet Coalition at 3:47 p.m. today. Despite the fact that we have not spoken since 5<sup>th</sup>-grade band, I would think you of all people understand the dangers that these devious creatures pose, especially in a post 9/11 world. Our ill-fated performance of the popular children's song "Hot Crossed Buns" at the Shady Oaks nursing home all those years ago, in my mind, solidifies your debt to me. You can pay back this debt with your support on this issue. I, of course, will assume that your initial rejection was intended for the dozens of other frivolous Facebook groups to which you must be invited daily.*

*Sincerely,  
Nick Fitzgerald*

Dear Nick,

I appreciate the hard work you spent in creating this thriving group of six members, but need I remind you of how poorly our last Facebook encounter ended; namely, the “poke” incident of December 2005. Furthermore, I have no interest in supporting your anti-Muppet agenda, as these wholesome creatures have instructed countless children in timeless values since their creation by late President Ronald Reagan. Need I cite the cinematic masterpiece *Muppets Take Manhattan*?

Yours Truly,  
Regis St. Fox

PS - You were the one who glued the pages of my score together at Shady Oaks, thereby ruining my future as a budding musical genius. I do believe this was the last time we spoke.

*Regis,*

*While perusing your e-mail, I couldn't help but recall the sound of your voice, reminiscent, I always thought, of a constipated duck. That being said, don't even begin to think you had any musical talent on that rancorously tuned oboe, an instrument which, much like you, has neither friendly connotations nor is worth hearing. Good thing we played for the Alzheimer's patients, whose waning short term memory spared them from any remembrance of your dreadfully painful and uninspired concerto.*

*Nick*

PS – *Muppets Take Manhattan* was one of the worst cinematic creations of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as evidenced by the fact it starred both

*Charles Grodin and Joan Rivers.*

PPS – *It is because of people like you that I am in a Facebook group entitled "I Actually Hate Some of My Facebook Friends."*

Nick,

No need to beat around the bush any longer, we both know what this is really about it. Do you think I didn’t know you were interested in Inga, the Swedish exchange student from our elementary school? Her halting command of the English language may have led to some confusion between the two of you regarding the true object of her affections. It was only I who had the privilege of accompanying her in a performance of that year’s most popular song, the Backstreet Boys’ “I Want It That Way,” arranged for oboe and bassoon. It was then, during that electrifying performance at our elementary school’s ice cream social, that the first sparks of our relationship flew. Don’t think I didn’t see you, green with jealousy, sulking in the back corner of the band, trying to hide yourself amongst a sea of other social rejects in the recorder section.

Regis

PS – I’ve created a pro-Muppet Facebook group to compete against yours.  
PPS – Your whole section sucked.

*Regis,*

*I was quite amused to read your latest nonsensical response; I even took the liberty of sharing it in my abnormal psychology class, and it was universally held to be the product of an ill and chemically imbalanced mind. How quickly you forget that Inga—or Binga, as I liked to refer to her—hated the Backstreet Boys. Maybe if you had spent more time with her, you would have known Swedes are notorious fans of Markey Mark and his hit boy band, the New Kids on the Block. Dare I even remind you of her tragic end, deported back to Sweden after a hilariously case of mistaken identity with her cousin Ingrid, the infamous Swedish terrorist. She always blamed you for starting the chain of events that led her to be disowned by her family, and, ultimately, star in the off-Broadway musical “The Swedish Chef Sings ABBA.”*

*Nick*

PS - Inga has joined the group at 7:35pm and has sent me a Facebook message. Although it is in Swedish, and altogether unintelligible, I am confident it says that she hates you, thinks I am dashing handsome, and wishes you were never born.



# Brooklyn based R&B duo Deep offers smooth harmonies, provocative lyrics

Alex Mayer

Staff Writer

Looking for something fresh and new on the urban music scene? Perhaps you should give a listen to Deep, an R&B duo hailing from New York and gaining popularity across the U.S. and overseas.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Deep is by no means a newcomer on the music scene – they began their career at age ten, deciding to “dedicate their lives to music” after winning a local talent show. The group, comprised of members ShoTime and Elijah, told *The Informer* that their background has given them a chance to be “exposed to all walks of life.”

Life in New York City, according to Deep, also provides them endless inspiration for their music: “Just looking out my window I can think of a million stories to write about. One for every person who walks beneath my window. The banker and the pusher could cross paths at the exact same time and give birth to two stories in my head all in the same breath. That’s Brooklyn.”

Influenced by the music of legends like Stevie Wonder, Boyz II Men, Teddy Pendergrass, Michael Jackson, Notorius B.I.G., Tupac and Bob Marley, the duo has crafted a unique blend of R&B, neo-soul and reggae. This mix has been taken to a new level, delivering compelling R&B grooves in Deep’s new album, *Reality*.

Deep’s sound has been characterized by its smooth vocal harmonies, blending Elijah’s strong, powerful voice with the higher, lighter vocals of Shotime to create a unique blend of sound. Slow, methodic beats form the backbone of many of Deep’s tracks, such

as “Hand in the Sky,” “Feel It In The Air,” and “Dear Mama.” Others are more upbeat and club-friendly, such as the fast-tempo “Ballin’” or the driving anthem “1 Hand in the Sky.”

Their new album pushed Deep into new territory musically and lyrically, according to the duo. The “more personal” nature of *Reality* means that the group has “learn[ed] to see our flaws and not to be scared to speak about them. We have also learned how to vocally take ourselves to the most vulnerable state to capture a moment in a song.”

The first single off the new album, “Standing on the Edge,” features rich yet melancholy harmonies and provocative, earnest lyrics about the hardships of living homeless in the city. Deep captures the helplessness felt by many trapped in that situation with lines like: *Sometimes I feel like I’m standing on the edge, holding out my hand / No one even knows I’m alive / I’m just a shadow in the streetlight.* The song also calls the rest of society to address this problem, for in Deep’s opinion too many people are willing to ignore the plight of those less fortunate: *When the smoke clears / where will we go from there? / Will you turn your back / or begin to care?*

If listeners could take away one overall idea or feeling from their new album, Deep hopes that it reminds people that “we are all going through this struggle in life together” and that they aren’t alone. Their desire is for people “to cry, to smile and to pretty much share every emotion that we were feeling while singing and writing the song.”

It can certainly be said Deep’s new album breaks fresh ground and gives listeners a chance to hear a more raw and personal side of the R&B duo.



Courtesy of Tycoon Dynasty Records

**Deep roots:** Born and raised in Brooklyn, Deep draws inspiration from the likes of Michael Jackson and the Notorious B.I.G.

## Renowned Vienna Boys Choir comes to Williamsburg

### Historic group spans seven centuries

Pablo Fierro

Staff Writer

Internationally renowned choral music comes to Williamsburg on October 24, courtesy of the Vienna Boys Choir and the College of William and Mary’s Lively Arts Series. The world famous choral ensemble features an impressive array of performers ranging from ages ten to fourteen, who range from soprano to alto. It is recognized as one of the oldest existing and most prestigious boys’ choirs in the world. The choir has performed for presidents, prime ministers and religious leaders.

The Vienna Boys Choir has existed since 1498 when Emperor Maximilian I commissioned a group of 12 for performing masses and church services. Because of their ties to the throne, they received top-class instruction under many well-known composers and conductors. These include some of the classical music greats such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Leonard Bernstein.

The choir became increasingly proficient, exponentially increasing the level of skill necessary to enter the group. The choir has produced many musicians and vocalists who went on to have incredible careers after performing with the group and helped to shape the Austrian musical scene of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The Vienna Boys Choir was officially



© 2004 Milken Family Foundation

**Max’s Chosen Singers:** Emperor Maximilian created the Vienna Boys Choir in 1498 and gave them top-notch instruction under many well-known composers and conductors. The group currently resides in the Augarten Palace and consists of about 100 members.

established in its current form in Austria in 1924 under Rector Josef Schnitt with the death of the monarchy. It is a non-profit, private organization, with a mission “to create an atmosphere in which children can pursue their love of music and develop their musical potential.” They work to improve themselves while learning to contribute to the choir as a whole.

The Vienna Boys Choir currently resides in the Augarten Palace, and consists of about 100 members divided into four groups. Gerald Wirth has been the Artistic Director of the chorus since

2001, and Dr. Eugen Jesser is the President of the organization. They continue to perform every weekend, leaving at least one group in Austria to sing Sunday mass in the Imperial Chapel of Vienna.

The Vienna Boys Choir will perform at Phi Beta Kappa Hall on October 24. The experience will definitely be well worth the \$25 price of admission. Tickets are available either in the Campus Center at the Office of Student Activities or on the day of the show at Phi Beta Kappa Hall.

William &  
Mary Theatre  
presents

## Gypsy

October 19-22

Read the  
review  
online

VAlnformer.com

**“Everything  
is coming  
up roses”**



# Professor Griffioen offers class to Christopher Wren Association members on Bach cantatas

## Bach Cantata Series ongoing in Wren Chapel

**Gustavo Elias**

Staff Writer

The Bach Cantata Series, a lecture and performance series on Johann Sebastian Bach's sacred cantatas is held weekly in the Wren Chapel on Thursday mornings. This weekly lecture series

is taught by the College's adjunct associate professor of music, Ruth van Baak Griffioen. Now in its fourth season, this continuing multi-year series has its sights set on surveying all 200 of Bach's sacred cantatas. For six consecutive weeks in the semester, Professor van Baak Griffioen explores two cantatas per class. At the midpoint of the lecture, a combination of local

professionals and William and Mary students perform one of Bach's arias. The performance maintains Baroque authenticity by playing at proper Baroque pitch (A = 415Hz, instead of the modern A= 440 Hz) on old instruments.

Several informational packets are available for the class, including a glossary of musical terms, musical scores for the pieces sung in class, and the words

to Bach's sacred cantatas in both German and English. The class begins with everyone singing the ending chorus to one of the cantatas. Professor Griffioen then provides the class with a detailed analysis of the entire cantata. She plays a recording of the cantata and discusses each individual movement, its compositional technique and style and its Christian lyrics.

The lecture also features a live performance of a Bach aria, which provides a pleasant break from the program's analysis.

All throughout the two hours, Professor Griffioen's energy, enthusiasm and knowledge of the material keeps the class wanting more. After class, Professor Griffioen enlightened participants with the fact that the organ inside the Wren Chapel is an original 18<sup>th</sup>-century organ in Baroque pitch.

The September 28 lecture featured Cantatas 42 and 44. Almost all of the people in attendance in the Wren Chapel were members of the Christopher Wren Association (CWA), a group of more than 1,400 members who attend educational programs and lectures after retirement. There are a variety of classes members can choose from, which range from classical music to computer skills. There are no tests or quizzes; members attend classes simply out of the love of learning. This lecture series in particular is meant for both CWA members and the public.

*The Bach Cantata Series runs on Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Wren Chapel. The series concludes on October 19.*



Gustavo Elias

**Sacred ritual:** Professor Griffioen begins each of her classes by having everyone sing the cantata of the week before analyzing it and discussing its technique. Most in attendance at the lectures are members of the Christopher Wren Association.

# Put down *Hamlet*: UCAB headlines with slam poet performance at Lodge 1

**Stephen Dause**

Staff Writer

Step aside, Shakespeare. Makeroom for Joaquín Zihuatanejo, a man with some universally applicable rhymes of his own. He's not down with the iambs, and form poetry isn't his style, but this slam poet definitely has what it takes to deliver a powerful, in-your-face message while dazzling his audience with down-to-earth imagery and blunt statements about ethnic identity. Thanks to the University Center Activities

Board (UCAB), Zihuatanejo will be featured in "Slam Poet" in Lodge 1 on Friday, October 20. He will be reading poems in a way that will be familiar to some and totally new to others.

Slam poetry is essentially a combination of rap and conventional poetry. It involves an emphasis not necessarily on the words being read so much as *how* they are read. Audience members can expect dramatic pauses, rapidly gesticulated phrases, and a hefty amount of gusto. Hearing slam poetry performed can be intense, considering that all it really boils down to is simple poetry reading.

His profile on louderARTS.com is unique. Zihuatanejo has received recognition for both his work as a teacher and his poetry. He is a proud father and husband. His family life growing up was indeed difficult. The barrio of East Dallas was his home, and his life was "plagued by gang violence, a heritage steeped in sacrifice, and borders." What's special about Zihuatanejo's story is that he made something heartening out of something troublesome. He isn't trying to appear victimized or accusatory — just realistic.

So on Oct. 20, if you'd like to hear some modern poetry with a distinct, very real ethnic vibe, put down *Hamlet* and head over to Lodge 1 at 9 p.m.

# The Cuban-Italian Salt-Pepper-and-Ketchup Monster...and other stories

What did you do this past Friday night? Catch a movie? Hit a party? Me? I watched a four-foot tall dragon tell the story of the "Three Billy Goats Gruff," found out why dogs and humans can't understand each other anymore, and heard about



**R.C. Rasmus**

Arts & Entertainment  
Editor

a Cuban-Italian salt-pepper-and-ketchup monster. I went to the second annual Colonial Williamsburg Storytelling Festival.

In a country with a storytelling tradition as rich as America's it comes as no surprise that each of the eight tellers who performed at the festival had a thoroughly unique style. Kathryn Windham's eighty-year-old voice conjured up images of deep southern kitchens and magnolias, while the youthful Antonio Sacre weaved in and out of florid, lightning fast Spanish as he told his stories. Dovie Thomason amazed her audience by alternating between soft narrative tones and harsh,

almost unnatural rasping in the telling of her Lakota folktale. Randel McGee used a four-foot high dragon puppet named Groark to tell his stories. Diane Ferlatte sang hers to the twanging of a banjo. Each of the tellers was different. Each of their tales had a life of its own. Each was utterly astounding.

In a world where entertainment is dominated by brainless sitcoms and third-rate movies, it's heartening to see that the old tradition of American Storytelling is still alive and well. The genuineness, the warmth with which these tales were told hearken to a time long past: a time when parents told stories to their children before bedtime instead of showing them idiotic illustrations in B-grade picture books, and when a campfire meant a well-told ghost story instead of just stomach aches from too much chocolate, marshmallow, and graham cracker. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation deserves hearty congratulations for its conception and execution of this thoroughly unique and artistic event. The Second Annual Colonial Williamsburg Storytelling Festival was an amazing success. I can't wait until next year.

## "Abuelo's Garden" By Zinuatanejo

"Memories of my grandfather's garden come back to me/ in well water voices/ in deep chest hymns/ that begin as a gurgle deep in the belly and rise to the throat/ slowly/ I remember little of the day my friends jumped me in/ I remember fists flailing and afterwards/ those deep, fleshy embraces/ only Latinos know how to give . .



# Book Review: *The World is Flat*

Book presents social, economic theories; fails to surprise

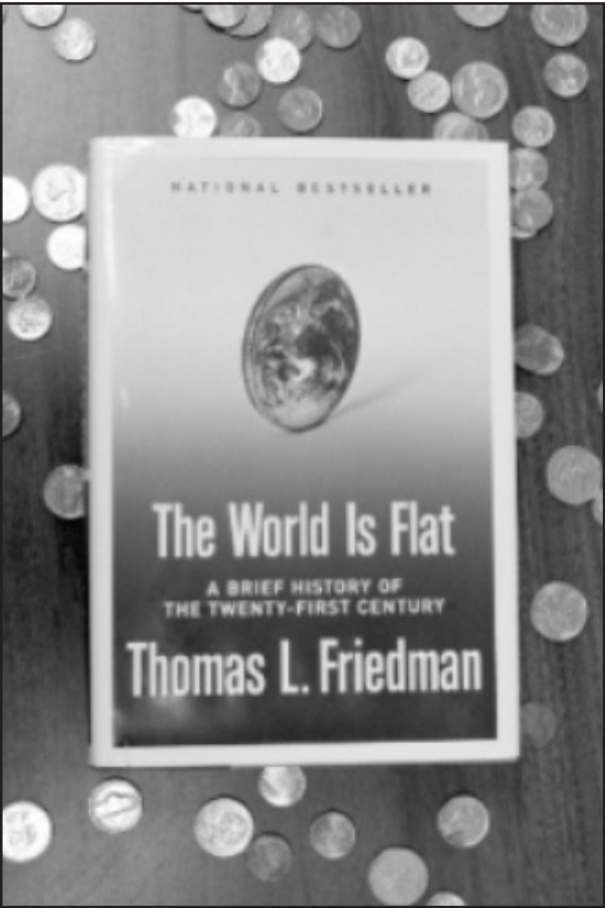
Jacob Hill

Staff Writer

Thomas Friedman shows his excellence as a journalist and his failure as an economist in his national bestseller, *The World is Flat*. The subtitle of the book proclaims it to be “A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century,” though the book presents mostly social and economic theories about past events and possibilities of the future. The book’s primary premise is that, physics aside, the world is being made flatter through human innovation and technology. “Flat” works as Friedman’s catch-all, describing everything from recent human innovations to globalization and technological revolutions.

“Friedman shows his excellence as a journalist and his failure as an economist.” The first chapter of his book is titled “While I was Sleeping,” which implies that while the world has been focusing on hot topic

events, such as terrorism and national security, a far more subtle change has been occurring. Friedman attempts to describe the events of globalization as extending as far back as Columbus’s accidental run in with a “new” continent. This period is called Globalization 1.0; it was a time of expanding empires, when power was determined by how effectively one nation employed their resources over another. Events eventually transpired to bring about Globalization 2.0, when trade and exchange began to open up the world to greater markets. Now, Globalization 3.0 is smashing the world with technology and innovations, changing



A changing world: Author Friedman claims that technology and innovations are warping the world as we know it.

the very way people relate and do business with one another.

Friedman then identifies 10 major factors contributing to the flattening of the world. These range from the fall of the Berlin Wall, to innovative supply-chains, to offshoring. Journalistically and even historically, he notes the close correlation of these events

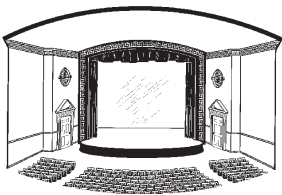
to each other and recent history.

However, Friedman also shows his failure as an economist. Early on, he recalls the Law of Association, sometimes referred to as Ricardo’s Law of Comparative Advantage. This basic law states that two or more actors may maximize production and utility if they engage in the production of the good in which they have comparative advantage (lowest opportunity cost). The Law of Association has a formal deductive proof, much like that of any theorem of mathematics. However, Friedman seeks to test if this law “remains” valid.

In his quest to show that one and one continue to be two, Friedman, while casting himself as an international modern man, falls back upon statist and nativist leanings. He believes that Ricardo’s law is still valid, but only if America expands government regulation over its economy, kind of like the successful economies on the other end of the Berlin Wall, and forces its people to educate themselves in the natural sciences and mathematics.

Overall, *The World is Flat* is a worthwhile read, but do not expect to be stunned or awakened by any deep revelation of new world order. Thomas Friedman is first and foremost a modern journalist; he is able to focus upon the emotional and surprising, but is not well acquainted with the technical.

Can’t decide what movie to see this weekend? Check out *The Informer’s* online movie reviews: [VAInformer.com](http://VAInformer.com)



## Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

### Movies

**Brick** (R)  
Thurs., Sept. 28-Wed., Oct. 4  
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.  
Sept. 28, 30, Oct. 2, 4 screening room  
(35 seats)

**Edmond** (R)  
Tues., Oct. 3-Sun., Oct. 8  
7 and 8:45 p.m.  
Oct. 3, 5, 7 screening room (35 seats)

**Gabrielle** Not rated  
Fri., Oct. 6-Wed., Oct. 11  
6:45 and 8:30 p.m.  
Oct. 6, 8, 9, 11 screening room (35 seats)

**Only Human** Not rated  
Tues., Oct. 10-Sun., Oct. 15  
7 and 8:45 p.m.  
Oct. 10, 12, 14 screening room (35 seats)

**The Peyton Randolph House: History and Legends**  
Tues., Oct. 31 at 7 and 8:30 p.m.

**Been Rich All My Life** Not rated  
Fri., Oct. 13-Wed., Oct. 18  
6:45 and 8:15 p.m.  
Oct. 13, 15, 16, 18 screening room (35 seats)

**13 Tzemeti** Not rated  
Thurs., Oct. 19-Tues., Oct. 24  
6:45 and 8:30 p.m.  
Oct. 19, 23, 24 screening room (35 seats)

**Changing Times** Not rated  
Tues., Oct. 24-Sun., Oct. 29  
7 and 8:45 p.m.  
Oct. 25-29 screening room (35 seats)

**Brothers of the Head** (R)  
Sun., Oct. 29-Fri., Nov. 3  
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.  
Oct. 30-Nov. 3 screening room (35 seats)

### October Schedule

### Live Performances

**The Williamsburg Symphonia presents Subscription Concert #2**  
Wed., Oct. 25 and Fri., Oct. 27 at 8 p.m.  
Tickets: \$37, \$27

**The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation presents The Equiano Lecture Series**  
**Freedom Through Faith: Understanding the Role Of Praise, Prophecy, and the Black Preacher in Early African American Religion**  
Sat., Oct. 28 at 7 p.m.  
This event is free but tickets are required





# 24-Hour Play Festival a dramatic success

## One night, six plays and endless creativity

Megan Locke

Staff Writer

Putting on a play involves many steps- writing the play, casting it, rehearsing with the director, and finally presenting it before an audience. The students who participated in William and Mary's 24-Hour Play Festival from September 8 to 9 amazingly did all of the above in less than one day.

Producer Kerry Stinson ('08) conceived the idea for William and Mary's event after she attended a similar one act festival at the University of Mary Washington. She set her plans in motion after she received sponsorship for the festival and recruited six interested student directors and six student playwrights.

The clock started ticking at 8 p.m. on Friday, September 8 when the cast members auditioned. After the directors had chosen their casts, it was the playwrights' job to write an approximately 10-minute play before 8 a.m. that Saturday morning. The production staff gave the playwrights their first and last lines as a starting point, with the last line of one play as the first line of the play following it. This connection running through all of the plays was "something extra for the audience," explains Stinson.

Six plays were showcased at the festival. *Snakes on a Plane: A Musical* (written by senior Tom Bambara and

directed by sophomore Mike Johnson) was a parody of the recently released movie with Samuel Jackson. *Play with Your Food* (written by junior Peter Andre and directed by senior Rose Hess) depicted the struggle for survival among the various foods in a refrigerator. *Fits and Starts* (written by junior Andy Hill and directed by senior Peter Nye) dealt with existential themes. *The Late Bloomer* (written by junior Dan Piepenbring and directed by junior Mike Mott) chronicled the developmental woes of a college junior. *The Next Step Forward* (written by junior David Techman and directed by freshman Ashley Bush) contrasted the melodrama of a college student with the toilet-training experience of her younger brother. Lastly, *Philanthropy* (written by senior Mary Davenport and directed by sophomore Kate Brunick) explored the relationship between two friends.

After rehearsals all day Saturday, the six plays were performed in the Theatre Lab in Phi Beta Kappa Hall at 8 p.m. that night. "The space lends itself to experimental stuff," says Stinson, who likes the small, intimate setting. However, the festival was so popular that two performances had to be held to accommodate all of those who wanted to view the finished products.



Courtesy of Rose Hess

**One with the fridge:** The cast of *Play with Your Food* got to stretch their creativity acting as various edible items living together in a refrigerator.

Stinson is quite pleased with the success of the 24-Hour Play Festival. "We wanted to bring in new people or people who don't usually do theater," she said. The festival accomplished just that. Half the cast members were freshmen or sophomores, and several of the students involved belonged to clubs that prevent them from participating in other theater activities.

Stinson assures that there is interest in doing the festival again next year. According to playwright Piepenbring, "It's a great way for everyone - writers, actors, directors, techies - to hone their skills." After the tremendous success of the 24-Hour Play Festival this year, it is impossible not to anticipate even greater things for next year.

# Eat, drink and think at Food for Thought

Shelbi Wilson

Food Critic

Towards the end of last semester, I noticed that a new restaurant had filled an empty space on Richmond Road. Its sign caught my eye - "Food For Thought, Eat Drink Think." I knew immediately that I wanted this restaurant to be my first review in the fall.

Food For Thought is far from typical. It is a restaurant with a purpose. Once seated, you notice

there are quotes on the walls and pictures all around of individuals who have contributed their thoughts and ideas to the world: Henry Ford, the Wright Brothers; and George Washington Carver, among others. The space is well lit and invites conversation, which is exactly what this restaurant aims for patrons to do - converse. Their website states, "Food For Thought is a tribute to great leaders, innovators, scientists, business people; and humanitarians... A truly wonderful meal is a combination of good food and good conversation. So talk about the special people featured here. Have fun while enjoying a deliciously inspiring meal and expand your mind as well as your belly... eat, drink, think."

Food For Thought's menu includes a wide assortment of flavors. I honestly had a hard time deciding what to order because their menu is such a good read in and of itself. It features classic American favorites such as meatloaf, steak, ribs; and pot roast, but also dishes such as Pad Thai and Jamaican jerk chicken. Entrée prices range from about seven dollars to nineteen dollars, with some varying according to market price.

There are a number of appetizers including fresh raw vegetables, stuffed

mushrooms, fried ravioli; and barbeque ribs. They also have several desserts, of which their bread pudding comes highly recommended. These items range from four to nine dollars. Additionally, they offer several daily entrée and cocktail specials at varying prices.

One of my favorite things about Food For Thought was their selection of on-tap beers. There are several to choose from, but they are not your everyday brands. Instead, Food For Thought offers on tap selections from microbreweries. It was great to try something different for once. The restaurant also offers bottled beers, wine; and cocktails.

The service was very quick, and the staff was attentive and friendly. The only downside is that the restaurant was relatively expensive for the typical student. It is definitely an option for a nice outing, but probably not an everyday location for most.

Food For Thought is located at 1647 Richmond Road near Chanello's Pizza. Please visit their website, <http://www.foodforthoughtrestaurant.com> or call (757) 645-4665 for more information.



**Food worth thinking about:** The new restaurant on Richmond Road offers diners both a variety of food and a variety of things to ponder.

### Food For Thought Hours

Monday through Thursday:

11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday and Sunday:

11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday:

11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m.

(featuring live music)

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## Staff Editorial:

### A college town call to arms

A new revolutionary front has emerged in the city of colonial revolution, and it is with the students of this college as we face the city officials. Town and gown relations have gone from bad to horrendous. What began as a few minor problems has escalated into violations of rights and insults to students that are no less than a slap in the face.

The fronts of the battle are clear: voting rights, anti-student development and city planning, and the patently ridiculous three person to a house rule.

The issue of voting has been a concern for students for some time and nothing has been done to alleviate it. The latest effort began in 2004 when three students attempted

to register to vote and to run for City Council. This past year, junior David Sievers was unsuccessful in his bid to claim a seat.

Rulings by the local courts have targeted students, questioning their purposes in wanting to vote in the Williamsburg jurisdiction. At one point, the debate was reduced to such a low level that a student was questioned, before a judge, as to her knowledge about city government, including the names of council members.

President Gene Nichol has come out in favor of students' right to vote recently, echoing his comments from last semester. He has vocally claimed that the inconsistencies in voter registration for college students are unconstitutional and a deprivation of basic rights, and he is correct.

In the infamous case of The College Delly and Starbucks, it is a clear shot across the bow of Williamsburg's night life. Another coffee shop does nothing for students who want to get off campus at some point and have a drink, a real drink. There is no zoning rule or regulation that could be to blame if, in fact, Starbucks becomes the new vendor at the site. However, this speaks to the culture that the city has developed and has made known to commercial enterprises: If it is student-oriented, we don't want it.

The city has done nothing to encourage student-friendly businesses. That was the original goal in the development of Merchant's Square, but Talbot's and Williams Sonoma are a far cry from that. There is not enough commercial zoning around the college, which is why the College Delly is such valuable property.

Furthermore, the charge of the City Council to purchase homes with taxpayer money in order to sell them as owner-occupied houses only, is a direct attack on students.

It is appalling that Chairman of the Economics department, Clyde Haulman, is impeding on the free market in Williamsburg by proposing and standing by this controlled economy.

The three person to a house rule

has taken on a new level of absurdity in recent weeks. The SAE alumni house case, in which five students asked to be permitted to reside in a six bedroom house, was rejected by the city's Zoning Appeals Board. Meanwhile, the Planning Board, Mayor and City Council all approved of the use of EconoLodge hotel rooms to be leased by Water Country USA to house Russian student employees. The request was for 80 students in 20 rooms, meaning that there would be four people to a room. The city's thinly veined attempts to discourage

students renting, or, in the case of the SAE house, even purchasing homes off campus are egregious and despicable.

Even with all of these wrongs being perpetrated against

the study body, isolationism seems to be the order of the day for most Williams and Marys. It is a peculiar form of indifference displayed by students who are, on the whole, such overachievers. It is time to look out for number one, as they say; yourself, along with your classmates. Just because you do not want to register to vote in Williamsburg does not mean that you should not help students who do. You may be content with your Ludwell quad apartment, but that is no excuse for not supporting the defeat of the three person to a house rule.

Economic data from last year shows that the students of the College contribute over \$11 million annually to the local economy. That is no small amount. There is strength in this number, as well as in the number of students. The College student body encompasses half of Williamsburg's population. It is time for students to start moving against the city with our wallets and our feet.

What could the city do if students began to peacefully demonstrate outside of Voter Registrar Dave Andrews' home each morning? What would happen if students held their money back from local businesses that did not help in our cause?

The students of William and Mary need to wake up to the fact that they are getting a raw deal. There is no excuse, or, for that matter, no midterm that should stop you from taking a stand.

The lead for this comes, partially, from the Student Assembly. However, even within that body, there are divisions on how to go about dealing with Williamsburg.

After years of nitpicking and making piecemeal offerings in the hopes to convince city officials of change, there needs to be another form of action. And real ACTION, not just friendly conversation every few weeks.

It will take some form of large, public protest of the city and its practices for any changes to happen, because officials know that we are here for only four years. Let us strike swiftly and accurately, and make this job easier for the students that follow us.



David Clifford

### A special thanks

The Virginia Informer would like to sincerely thank all of our sponsors and advertisers who made the publishing of this issue possible. We are proud to serve the William and Mary community by providing copies free of charge, and by not by taking student activities fees, as other publications do.

If you would like to support *The Virginia Informer*, please contact us at [VAInfo@wm.edu](mailto:VAInfo@wm.edu).

## Gay marriage debate over lunch is unwise

During a visit to the UC on Wednesday, October 5, I was stopped two different times during the day to respond to questions concerning the Virginia legislature's proposed amendment to ban gay marriage. The amendment would define marriage as solely between a man and a woman in Virginia.

I was somewhat astounded to be confronted on the gay marriage issue twice in one day at the UC. The first individual was a member of a campus newspaper and took my opinion. The second individual was a member of a political group desirous to register Virginia voters, but I did not give my opinion to him, though he wanted to discuss the issue. The frequency of the questions serves to indicate something important: gay marriage is an incredibly important issue.

It is a very good thing that William and Mary is so open to political discourse. At the same time, gay marriage is not an issue with which I would confront complete strangers, personally. Protesting is one thing, but picking people out of the crowd and asking for their views can have negative effects.

When they asked me what I thought about the issue, it only reaffirmed my own views on gay marriage. It reaffirmed that I need to vote in favor of the gay marriage ban.

For those supportive of traditional values and institutions, the issue of gay marriage lies at the center of our culture. At William and Mary, it might be difficult to ascertain the importance of the issue because we live among so many divergent ideas. The traditional family does not always have a positive connotation in the college setting. In the real world though, most people are opposed to gay marriage. A Virginia Mason-Dixon poll from September shows 54% of Virginia voters support a ban on gay marriage. Most people do not want their children growing up in a

country that allows men to marry other men or women to marry other women. There are clear and distinct reasons for this view.

Gay marriage can only hurt families. What gay marriage supporters do not tell you is the most important information: they do not respect the traditional family. Mothers and fathers are not necessary in their vision of America. Lone women or two gay men are just as fit to raise a child as a mother and a father. Opposing all American tradition and values, they suggest that this change can only be good, although they offer no evidence.

Emotion and buzz-words like "gay rights" and "open-mindedness" are their tools instead of facts and studies. If you do not agree, you're just close-minded. Those of us who believe mothers and fathers are essential to a child's well-being are just not accepting change well enough.

Opposing gay marriage does not necessarily mean that you oppose gay rights. Every

individual in America deserves equal rights. The question is thus: how equal should homosexuals be to heterosexuals? Should they be so equal that they can somehow procreate? I doubt homosexuals will start spontaneously procreating any time soon. The simple truth is that we are not all perfectly equal in state and we do not all need the same legal treatment for democratic values to win. The elderly retiree needs different legal treatment than the newborn baby. The heterosexual father needs different treatment than the homosexual bachelor.

This debate is being launched on our campus to serve the democratic process, and for that, I appreciate the confrontations I experienced. Further debate on this issue should be supported as much as possible, though it would be wise to hold debates in more appropriate settings than the front of the food court.



John R. Kennedy  
Opinion Editor



# In praise of Pickering

Jacob Hill

Staff Writer

Here is an all too familiar story: a libertarian or conservative student entering their first year of college goes to class with the intent of receiving a higher education, only to be left dumbfounded by a tirade on the evils of capitalism and the ethnocentrism of the West. Investigative journalism has cropped up from time to time to report on liberal professors who directly or indirectly seek to harass conservative and libertarian students, sometimes with the added bonus of a failing grade if said student attempts to defend their ideas. Here is an impressive exception to that story: Professor Paula M. Pickering.

I had the fortune to take Professor Pickering's freshman seminar: Government 150W Nationalism in the Balkans. The class focused on the historical and modern conditions in the Balkans currently contributing to regional ethnic tension and nationalism. The wide range of topics included the introduction of Christianity to the region, to Islamic invasions, the communist government of Ceausescu, and the modern conflicts in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In other words, the course covered enough topics in enough areas to bring up more than a fair share of opportunities for Professor Pickering to indoctrinate.

However, Professor Pickering never once took advantage of her captive audience. In fact, Professor Pickering never brought up her personal politics. She had personal experience in the Balkans, setting up an embassy under the Clinton Administration, working with non-governmental organizations and researching



Ian R. Whiteside

**Fair and balanced teaching, for a change:** Professor Paula Pickering is a prime example of a teacher who puts aside politics in favor of learning.

the modern political movements in the Balkans. If one had to guess at her politics, American liberal would probably not be far off the mark.

Throughout the entire semester, from the readings I had to the papers I wrote, I advanced my own thoughts and ideas as far as we were asked, which would probably be best described as anarcho-capitalist, about as far from American liberal as possible. When a discussion concerning the Kosovo Conflict was held in class, I even advanced a position that the United States had no vested interest in engaging in the conflict. This is not to say the Professor Pickering merely allowed me to make unsupported statements, but never did I see a dismissive attitude or did my grade suffer because of difference with the professor.

While problems with professors and conservative students are well known and even reported from time to time, Professor Paula M. Pickering shows the hopeful ideal of student-professor relations. Though I have had only one semester to judge her character, I would encourage anyone to try for themselves. Furthermore, it may not be a bad idea for professors in positions dealing with delicate topics to take a page out of her book.

## Lost in translation

### Chinese department has high demand, but other languages block supply

Will Coggin

Staff Writer

Perhaps one of the fastest expanding departments at the College is the Chinese department. Base enrollment, not including drill sections, is up nearly 50% from last year. And who can be surprised? As China continues to increase in importance, students recognize the role that it will play in the future, both economically and politically, and rightly recognize the value in learning the language and culture.

However, as China's status and importance increase globally, that is not the case for the Chinese department at the College. While the increase in student demand for the language is to be expected, money has not followed. This year, to teach over 240 students (plus roughly 150 for drill sections), there are only two full-time professors and three adjuncts, with one of the full-time professors on sabbatical.

To see how drastic the situation is, compare this to the French department, which has 10 full-time professors for about 100 more students. In fact, the Chinese department loses out on student to professor ratio to every other department except, slightly, to Japanese. When two slots opened up for professors in the Modern Languages department this past year, the Chinese department was not able to secure either. The situation is dire.

The capabilities of adjunct professors are limited. For Chinese, they are generally limited to teaching language sections, while all of the culture courses must be taught by full-time professors. Moreover, many of the adjuncts are tutors from Beijing that rotate in and out of the College on a yearly basis. Since the addition of the Chinese major a few years ago, the importance of having a multitude of culture classes every semester, plus the burgeoning introductory level courses, has strained the professors.

Looking down the line, things are only going to get worse. Today's demand for five sections of Chinese 101 will be passed down to more and more sections of higher levels, while incoming demand for low level Chinese courses could increase even further. Businesses both in America and in China are looking for Americans who can speak Chinese, so the language and the major will become increasingly valuable in the next few years. It is therefore imperative that we supply it with the necessary resources to succeed.

# Political correctness: What's in a name?

Michael Coticchio

Staff Writer

When I came to the south and crossed the Mason-Dixon, right into the heart of our country's birth, I thought I would rediscover an America long forgotten in the north. I despaired to find that it was more of the same.

This first became apparent to me during Orientation, when President Nichol, waxing triumphant, declared that we are proud to announce that the College welcomes 26% AHANA (African-American, Hispanic, Asian and Native American) students to the class of 2010. Now tell me something, if we are to have a society where every man, woman and child is equal under the law, why continually segregate segments of the population along racial distinctions? The only form of self-identification I want to see on a college application is a social security number, not a little box to check in if you're a Pacific Islander, African-American, Mexican or a Native American. It really shouldn't matter, and let's just call the box what it is, an unequivocal leg up in the application process.

I do not and never will, see the need for these distinctions among races. Dr. King preached equality, and brotherhood amongst all of mankind. But instead of granting equality, we've overcompensated in what I suppose is self-guilt driven atonement, and continue the separation by creating superiority. Why the need to classify and group minorities as AHANAs, why not just welcome all as new members of the TRIBE. But, These days in America, that's the way it is, so I guess we can give the administration a break for just toting the party line.

Then came the brainwashing sessions of Orientation's diversity day, a *highly* mandatory meeting. My heart fell to the floor, "What's happening to this country?" I found that this too was just another opportunity to again create division among people. We learned how to be *sensitive*, how to alter our choice of words, and our everyday dialect. By God, WAKE UP you idiots, don't you see what's happening, you're being censored into a world where you can't even describe people by what they look like or what they do. Words which you speak and mean no harm in, are suddenly offensive. You my friend, are being politically corrected.

Now I side with the school regarding its resistance to the recent PC driven NCAA crusade on all "offensive" team mascots and names. But in the same sense, is not the school being hypocritical yet again with this argument? If they would contest that describing an action as retarded, gay, or girly is offensive, then I would conclude that calling our team the Tribe (with two feathers) is likely offensive as well.

I mean when people describe something as "hey that's retarded," or "man, that was so gay," the words have morphed in such social contexts and conversational parameters to be taken as something that it didn't originally define, and now it has multiple meanings. So, administration, if you stress that we say preposterous instead of retarded and silly instead of gay, well then, why not call the Tribe, the "mighty united group," or better yet the Pack – no wait, forget about that name, one day it may offend wolves.

At William and Mary, we've adapted the traditional Tribe (and two feathers), to mean unity, a certain togetherness. Well then what's wrong with me taking

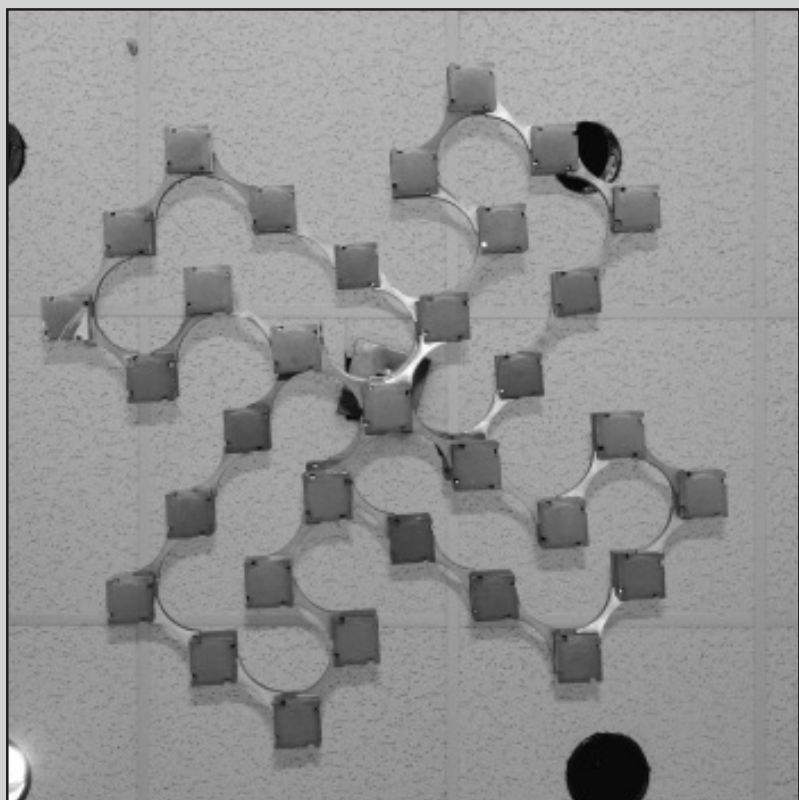
liberty in using the word retarded, to refer to a stupid statement? Don't I have freedom of interpretation too? It appears to me that everyone aggressively promotes political correctness except *except* when political correctness hits home. Then we become these rebels, these lone wolves that shun the system. In reality, we're really just mere pawns of the system, pawns that have finally realized what all our empty suit appeasements have brought us. We realize this only now, when the double edged sword of Marxist policy is turned on Williamsburg, on the beloved Ole William and Mary.

This is my main point and what the William and Mary administration misses: "Nothing ever did so much harm as good intentions." Yes, there are terms that are so vilely offensive that in fact should be censored for the good of public standards. But when we take these good intentions too far, they become perverted. Basic descriptions such as a person's color, tongue or look become offensive. From there, even terms associated with people, terms which are ingrained in our culture, such as *Tribe*, become insensitive.

So if William and Mary has a problem with the NCAA's bearing down on its team mascot, as it should, I stand with them, but to the administration I counsel with a quote from the Bible, "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." Matthew 7:3-5.

With that, lighten up, after all, what's in a name?





Ian R. Whiteside

## What do *you* think this is?

The picture above was taken at Rogers Hall while standing underneath the first floor entrance facing Barksdale Field. Below, the same item, a bizarre-looking modern art chandelier is photographed from the second floor balcony.

Is this peculiar modern art or something more?

Vote in our online poll  
**VAlnformer.com**



Ian R. Whiteside

# Before we were the Tribe:

Part one in a series about the College's team names and logos

Amanda J. Yasenchak

Editor in Chief

This past year is not the first time the College has struggled with its logo. In fact, the current logo with the two feathers was only officially adopted in 1978, following decades of unofficial Indian logos and nearly a century of a several different team names.

The first documented evidence of school spirit at the College dates back to 1898, when the school colors were orange and white. Orange was presumably chosen in honor of William III, also known as William of Orange.

From 1911 to 1923, the College changed its colors from orange and white to orange and black. In 1923, the College finally embraced green and gold, as well as silver, although it is unclear how consistently these colors were used in the first half of the twentieth century.

Whenever an athletic team was mentioned by name before 1916 it was referred to as the William and Marys or the Orange and Black.

In 1916, the *Colonial Echo* referred to the athletic teams as the Indians, and the name stuck, for the most part. In 1923 the team was called the Warriors, in 1924 it was referred to as both the Braves and the Tribe, and in 1925 it was known as the Fighting Virginians. Soon after, the Indians reappeared and the name was used for the next several decades.

A variety of Indian symbols and caricatures were used throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century as logos and mascots. It was common for students to dress up as Indians for sporting events. A 1959 *Colonial Echo* includes a photo of three women dressed as Indians, official members of that year's cheerleading squad.

In the 1960s the most common Indian caricature used resembled the Cleveland Indians' mascot.

In the early 1970s, students and administrators began discussing alternatives to the Indians and the logo, which by then was known as WAMI, the William and Mary Indian. The athletics department responded to this pressure by quietly phasing out the offensive logo.

The October 10, 1975 issue of *The Flat Hat* reported a rumor that the Board of Visitors was responding to pressure from campus ethnic groups by renaming the Indians the Patriots. The green and gold school colors would be changed to red, white and blue. *The Flat Hat* reported that this was just a rumor and that the Board of Visitors had no intention of changing the team's name. One administrator was quoted as saying, "It is highly unlikely that the 'Indians' will ever disappear."

In February 1978, the College publicly replaced the various unofficial logos with the current logo of the W and M with two green and gold feathers. The unofficial logos, particularly the Cleveland Indians' smiling Indian caricature, were found to be offensive toward American Indians.

The College considered dropping the nickname, Indians, at the same time. But it was decided that the College had historical reasons to keep the name. In a letter to President Thomas Graves, then Dean of Students Sam Sadler wrote, "The use of the nickname itself is not viewed as either offensive or demeaning to American natives."

**Next month: From the Indians to the Tribe**

## HONOR COUNCIL: Meetings lack transparency; may be violation

continued from page one

assigns one member of the Honor Council to serve as the accused student's procedural advisor who along with Wolf, meet with the student to explain to them pertinent information, give the student a flow chart of honor process and answer any of the student's questions. Afterwards, Wolf appoints two three-person committees made up of Honor Council members, one Investigating Committee to gather all the information they can about the case, and a Sufficient Evidence Panel to determine if that information is sufficient enough to warrant a hearing or if the case is deemed trivial, and if so the case is dismissed.

If the Sufficient Evidence Panel determines there is enough information for a trial, the accused student is given the Investigating Committee's findings and a hearing date is set. The next step is the hearing phase, where a student receives two hearings on the trial night, a Guilt Hearing, and if the student is found guilty, they are then given a Sanctions Hearing. At the Sanctions Hearing, the Honor Council has the power to give a student an oral or written warning, timed probation, probation until graduation, suspension or contingent dismissal. According to Wolf, the regularity of the sanctions tends to resemble a bell curve, with warnings and contingent dismissal being very rare. If a student is found guilty, they may go to the Dean of Students

office and listen to their hearings and view the transcripts of the hearing, but not the internal deliberations. Students are not allowed to leave the room with their transcript. The student then has five business days to appeal the verdict.

All of the "trial" proceedings are legal and are required to be confidential by federal statute. However, there needs to be more transparency in the other workings of the Honor Council to meet state regulations of a public body. This self-investigation by the Honor Council of its practices could set in motion a series of challenges if the school's legal counsel decides against the recommendation of the FOIA attorney.

## DINING SERVICES UNION: First meeting has small turnout

continued from page one

not well attended, she hopes to see more workers out at the next meeting. No date has been set, but she said it will be later in the evening to better accommodate the schedule of workers. "There is some interest," she said. "The only way to find out for sure is to make sure all the workers know what we are doing, and see if they come out. If there really, truly is a true interest, that's

great, if there is not a true interest, we will drop it."

Edith said she hopes to accomplish two goals - making sure the workers receive a living wage and that their employers have respect for them.

"I believe in fair treatment in the work place," Heard said. "If you work hard, you should be given a living wage."

Heard said that a living wage would be \$10.75/hr, while starting Aramark

dining services employees currently make \$9.25/hr. Supervisors earn more.

"They are making a lot of people supervisors now," she said. "It's hard to tell what most people are making."

Director of Dining Services Philip DiBenedetto referred all questions to the corporate Aramark office.

Aramark Director of Communications Karen Cutler said that it is company policy not to discuss

specific union activity, but instead issued a statement.

"To ensure our success, we maintain open communications with our employees, our most valuable asset, and work hard to address their concerns on any issue," she wrote. "We prefer that our employees work directly with us on issues that concern them rather than through third-party union representation."